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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION.

BY

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CO-OPERATION AMONG GEOGRAPHY TEACHERS.—The recent organization of several co-operative associations among geography teachers in this country and abroad is a healthful sign of the times in the geographical field. When teachers have so far advanced in their conceptions of their geographical needs as to seek aid and advice from their colleagues, it is safe to say that a good, though perhaps a small beginning has been made toward the improvement of geography teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

For several years the physiography teachers in the Chicago High Schools have met regularly to discuss their work and the methods of accomplishing the necessary results. Certain of the grammar school principals of New York City have recently combined in a similar way and have prepared and published a detailed series of suggestions* to teachers of geography in the elementary schools of New York City.

Such organizations are very helpful from an educational and social standpoint, and should be encouraged by all those leaders of teachers and superintendents who do not feel that a text-book needs no amplification or amendments. Organizations that will bring more distant teachers in touch, if rightly conducted, are still more helpful, as there is much less danger of inbreeding in the ideas suggested, and less likelihood of over-emphasis of some one phase of geography teaching—an important point in the elementary field.

For this reason such organizations as the Teachers' Geography Club, of Boston, Mass., and the American Bureau of Geography, of Winona, Minn., ought to be of great value to all who can co-operate in the work.

The Teachers' Geography Club was organized in 1897 by teachers in and about Boston who had received their inspiration from summer work with Professor Davis, of Harvard University. The object of the Club has been to promote a more thorough knowledge of geography, and to secure improvement in its teaching. The

* Suggestions to teachers; in Geography 4A-7B. Privately printed.

Club now numbers about 160 members, of whom several are corresponding members, chosen largely from the well-known geography teachers of the United States.

During the winter months meetings are held for the discussion of geographical matters, and for the presentation of reports of the local committees. For effectiveness, the Club has a committee on pictures, one on books, one on magazines, one on local geography and excursions, and one on lectures.

That the Club considers all phases of geography work is very well evidenced by the following list of excursions that are being carried out during the present season: Excursion to BRIDGEWATER, MASS., morainal deposit, showing fine ice front, morainal beach, esker, natural form, transverse and longitudinal sections; MARBLE-HEAD NECK, sea-cutting, cliffs, "The Churn"; GRAIN ELEVATOR, East Boston, a large steamer can be seen while freighting; LYNN WOODS, glacial evidences, "Boulder Path," ledges; ARNOLD ARBORETUM, complex esker and sand plain, an old river gorge and peat bed, adaptation of these features to man's use; ATHENÆUM PRESS, First Street, Cambridgeport, Mass., an opportunity to see how a geography is made from start to finish; KENNEDY'S CRACKER MANUFACTORY AND BRIGHAM'S MILK DEPOT, Cambridge; HARVARD UNIVERSITY, study of geographical equipment; QUEEN QUALITY SHOE FACTORY.

This year, for the first time, the Club is conducting a course of lectures for the benefit of the public and teachers. The subjects and the lectures are indicated in the following list, which will show the character of the work which the Club is trying to do: Prof. Charles E. Fay, The Canadian Alps; Prof. George H. Barton, Hawaii; Dr. William Z. Ripley, Geographical Factors in Human Affairs; Prof. Richard E. Dodge, Colorado Plateaux of New Mexico and their Ancient and Modern Civilizations; Miss Elizabeth F. Fisher, Russia and Its People; Mr. J. B. Woodworth, The Piedmont of Virginia; Dr. Frederick P. Gulliver, Holland; Prof. William M. Davis, The Geographical Effects of Glaciation; Mr. Edward Atkinson, The Physical Geography and Geology of the Cotton Plant; Prof. George L. Goodale, subject to be announced later.

The effectiveness of the Club's work has undoubtedly been largely determined by the fact that the Club has worked together in a small body in such a way as to give mutual and personal assistance. The plan of work that is done, and the scope of the Club's operations, offer valuable suggestions for interested teachers in other localities who desire to club together for mutual assistance.

The President of the Club is Miss Elizabeth F. Fisher, of Wellesley College, Wellesley, Mass.; the Corresponding Secretary is Mr. Philip Emerson, of the Cobbet School, Lynn, Mass.

The American Bureau of Geography is now being organized by Professor Edward M. Lehnerts, of the Normal School, Winona, Minn. The primary aims of the Bureau are: First, to make available to each member the valuable geographical material in the possession of his fellow-members; and second, to establish influences helpful to the teaching and the teacher of geography.

In accordance with this aim, the plan of work of the Bureau includes: Correspondence with educational men and women who are interested in geography and desire improvement in its teaching; organization of a system of exchange of products, geographic views, etc.

In addition to this the Director will publish quarterly a bulletin devoted to helps for the teaching of geography, with the co-operation of Mr. J. P. Goode, of the Normal School, Charleston, Ill.; Mr. C. F. King, of Dearborn School Boston, Mass.; Professor McCormick, of State Normal University, Normal, Ill.; Professor McFarlane, State Normal College, Ypsilanti, Mich.; Mr. J. W. Redway, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; Mr. Roddy, Normal School, Millersville, Pa., and Professor Tarr, of Cornell University.

The scope of articles announced for the Bulletin is very inclusive, and if the plan is carried out the first number will be large and suggestive.

The plan of the whole Bureau is so very broad that there is danger of a scattering of activities, whereby the best cannot be done in any particular field. There is a chance for great good, if the plan is well conducted, particularly in the exchange of ideas and illustrative materials.

POPULAR LECTURES IN GEOGRAPHY IN NEW YORK CITY.—Last year mention was made in the *Bulletin** of the attention devoted to geography in the courses of Free Lectures to the People, given under the auspices of the Board of Education for the Boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx, and under the direction of Dr. H. M. Leipziger, Supervisor of Lectures. Lectures are given regularly at some forty-four different lecture centres, usually to audiences of several hundred. Dr. Leipziger aims to have his lectures practical and helpful, and, so far as possible, arranged in a progressive series. As the audiences, largely composed of working men and

* Bull. Am. Geog. Soc., XXX, 5, 1898, pp. 464-465.

women, who have little time for study and reading, remain very constant in their make-up during the season, the same people often occupying the same seats night after night, the educational results must be very great.

Owing to the stirring events of the last two years there has been a deep interest in geographical topics, and the Supervisor has rightly devoted much attention to topics dealing with travel and descriptive geography. Some 545 lectures are to be given in the courses between October 1, 1899, and March 1, 1900. Of these 135 are announced under the heading of travel and descriptive geography, while many other lectures of a geographical nature are included under Natural Science, etc.

GEOGRAPHICAL PERIODICALS FOR TEACHERS.—The *Zeitschrift für Schul-Geographie*, now in its twenty-first volume, was probably the first special periodical devoted to the interests of geography teachers, but its influence has been very slight in this country. The *Journal of School Geography*, now in its fourth volume, was similarly the first special teacher's periodical in this country, though the host of papers of a local or national character that deal with the problems of elementary school work have long devoted a small portion of their space, mostly at irregular intervals, to the cause of geography teaching. A small paper, aimed to furnish teachers with the latest information in geography, has for two years been published by Superintendent Rupert, of Pottstown, Pa., under the title of GEOGRAPHICAL LEAFLETS. This paper, however, has not dwelt upon the problems of the teaching of geography, being primarily intended to furnish collateral geographical reading for school children.

Recently two new departures have been taken that should aid teachers greatly. The *National Geographic Magazine*, of Washington, D. C., which has hitherto had but an occasional teacher's article, is planning to publish a series of such articles in the near future, getting co-operation from the best-known teachers of geography available. Thus far two articles have appeared, both by Professor Davis, of Harvard University—one in November, 1899, entitled *The Rational Element in Geography*, and the other in February, 1900, entitled *Practical Exercises in Geography*, and devoted to the elaboration of practical problems available for elementary and secondary schools.

The latest addition to this branch of educational literature is the promised *Bulletin* of the American Bureau of Geography, already

noted, the first number of which is announced for March. Special emphasis in this paper will not be given to any phase of geography teaching.

A NEW SCHOOL FOR COMMERCIAL GEOGRAPHY.—The increased attention given to commercial geography is not confined to this country. In the last number (January, 1900), of the *Annales de Géographie*, we find note of the recent founding at Lyons of a course planned to prepare young men for public life, to which M. Zimmermann has been called as professor of geography. This movement seems in line with several movements in this country that are now on foot for the opening of university courses planned to fit young men for business and public service.

GEOGRAPHY EXCURSIONS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS.—One of the most difficult and unsatisfactory phases of the teaching of geology and physical geography in secondary schools lies in the difficulty of conducting the necessary field excursions. Every one recognizes the need of field work, but, as yet, little has appeared in print that gives practical suggestions to those teachers who are not expert scientists. The Sub-Committee on Physical Geography, of the Committee on College Entrance Requirements of the National Educational Association, lay strong emphasis upon the need of field work, but offer few suggestions, while they give much more detail to the question of laboratory work (see Report of Committee, pp. 159–160).

Tarr* has given a number of suggestions of a general and yet helpful nature, which, however, are of little special assistance to the local teacher. Perry† has shown us clearly how to use the field of the vicinity of Worcester, Massachusetts, in the illustration of more distant and, perhaps, larger areas. The teachers of Chicago are supplied with a very valuable and complete syllabus pertaining to their city.

What is needed for the benefit of local teachers, as the Sub-Committee on Physical Geography has well emphasized,‡ is a series of guides for large cities, which could, perhaps, be used by a considerable number of schools located in a similar region.

* Suggestions for Laboratory and Field Work in High School Geology, etc., The Macmillan Company, 1897; and Teachers' Outfit in Physical Geography, *School Review*, 1896, Vol. IV, pp. 161 and 193.

† Physical Geography in the High School, *Journal of School Geography*, Vol. III, pp. 130–138.

‡ loc. cit. p. 159.

Next to such local guides, with details of cost, routes, etc., are to be commended such scientific, simple, and readable accounts of a limited area as have lately appeared in reference to Worcester, Massachusetts, and Chicago, Illinois. The first by Mr. Joseph H. Perry* is a well-illustrated, interesting, accurate account of the region mentioned, that deserves wide mention and use. It should be of great value to all geography teachers of southern New England. The second and latest paper of a similar nature appears as Bulletin No. 1 of the Geographic Society of Chicago, and is entitled the Geography of Chicago and its Environs, by Rollin D. Salisbury and William C. Alden. This is a well-illustrated, very pleasing and helpful account of the physical features of Chicago and vicinity that ought to be of great service to teachers. The topography due to structure and to drift is first analyzed, and followed by a detailed account of the development of the topography in recent geological times. With such a guide and a good map the conduct of a field excursion ought to be an easy task, as far as equipment is concerned.

It is to be hoped that local workers in other centres may soon produce guides and local geographical histories that may be of similar service in teaching.

* The Physical Geography of Worcester, Massachusetts, Worcester Natural History Society, 1898.